



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine  
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
US Department of Agriculture  
OMB Information Collection  
Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

## Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: MN117**

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Minnesota

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position:

Minnesota Board of Animal Health, 625 Robert St N, St. Paul, MN 55155

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: MN Board of Animal Health Position Title: Regulatory Vet.

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☒ Food Safety
- ☒ Public Health
- ☒ Epidemiology
- ☒ Other: Animal Health

**Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).**

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health (Board) is the state animal health regulatory agency dedicated to safeguarding animal health in Minnesota. The primary objective for the veterinarian meeting this shortage situation would be oversight of a subset of livestock programs for the Board. Programs could include monitoring compliance with livestock importation requirements and developing a breeding cattle import permit process, directing and overseeing field staff involved in bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication in northwestern Minnesota, or designing and implementing an animal disease traceability program for the state. Oversight would include providing direction and guidance to field staff implementing these programs and training field staff or private practice veterinarians when new programs are started to ensure consistent and effective implementation. Additional objectives include providing timely and accurate reporting on these programs to the State Veterinarian, maintaining accurate program records, and effectively communicating program elements to professionals in the animal health community, to animal industry stakeholders and producers.

**Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).**

This veterinarian would spend 100% of their time in public practice for the Board and oversee livestock programs from the main office of the Board. The activities of the veterinarian meeting this shortage situation would include designing and implementing programs of high priority for the Board. Once designed, this veterinarian will work with office and field staff and private practice veterinarians to ensure successful implementation of the programs. Another activity could include ensuring adherence to regulations associated with bovine TB eradication in Minnesota. The veterinarian would also summarize and report on the programs they oversee and develop presentations to communicate program methods, goals, and accomplishments within the animal health community as well as stakeholders including animal industry associations and producers. The veterinarian must also become knowledgeable about other Board and USDA Veterinary Services animal health programs to understand the full spectrum of animal health regulation in the state and nation.

**Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).**

The Board expanded office regulatory staff with expansion of the bovine TB eradication program in 2007 and the need for better animal traceability for Minnesota livestock. In the last five years, two staff veterinarians left the Board for private practice; three veterinarians (two recent graduates) were hired. With salary limits in state government, the Board has had difficulty recruiting staff veterinarians, especially recent graduates given their substantial student debt load. Once hired, it's important for the Board to retain staff veterinarians as the complexity of disease control programs requires training and on-the-job experience for veterinarians to be fully effective.

**Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).**

The risk of this position not being secured or retained is that current staff will have to oversee more programs. Current staff will be able to spend less time on each program and be unable to develop new programs or develop them fully due to time limitations. Without full implementation of these programs, the state could be at an increased risk of disease introduction without appropriate livestock importation requirements or animal traceability or fall short of disease eradication in our bovine TB Modified Accredited Advanced Zone. Minnesota is home to 2,420,000 cattle/calves and 470,000 milk cows. In 2009 16,562,000 hogs were marketed and 48,000,000 turkeys were raised (2010 MN Agricultural statistics). An efficient and effective animal disease traceability system is vital to maintaining the health of this livestock population. Keeping the livestock healthy also translates into a safe and healthy product for consumers within our state and to export to other states/countries. Minnesota is

ranked 7<sup>th</sup> for agricultural exports. From farm to table – the Minnesota Board of Animal Health is an important element in maintaining the health of the farm so the food can make it to the table.

**Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a “service in emergency” agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the “Service in Emergency” agreement.**

Not applicable for this period

**Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:**

Name: Dr. William L. Hartmann

Title: State Veterinarian and Executive Director of the  
Board of Animal Health

Organization: Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Email: [bill.hartmann@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.hartmann@state.mn.us)

Telephone Number: 651-201-6825  
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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